

FIREWORKS CELEBRATION: Made using gunpowder and known as Chinese flowers, fireworks have always been more about the oohs and aahs, than the flash and bang. First noted in the 7th Century during China's Tang Dynasty, early pyrotechnicians were tasked with lighting the night sky during festivals with the ultimate exclamation point!

GAZEBO EXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2016



PROPOSED TOWN HALL LOCATIONS

COUNCIL SEARCHES FOR PERFECT SITE

Following an in-depth look at the new town hall footprint and a meeting with residents, the Town Council is heading back to the drawing board.

A downtown location just east of the Main Fire Station that had seemed idyllic at first glance may be too cramped and offer inadequate parking.

"While I would absolutely love to build a new town hall downtown, this is not just about putting a building someplace," Councilman Dan Vassar said. "This is about finding the best site that offers adequate space and ease of access to make it convenient for all of our residents."

As much as they want to get moving on the project,

PUBLIC MEETING

The Town Council is planning to discuss the pros and cons of each town hall site as well as costs and timeline at its August study sessions — 7 p.m. Aug. 1 and 15 — at town hall, 3333 Ridge Road. Learn more at www.highland.in.gov.

ect, the five council members agreed it is more important to take the time to get it right.

"We have concerns about parking and how the project would impact the neighbors," Council President Bernie Zemen said. "Next up, we're going to look at the pros and cons to determine which sites are viable." 🐦

RAILROAD QUIET ZONE

The shush is on. Without the routine blare of train horns, south Kennedy has become a quiet zone — a place where crickets, frogs and locusts may be all you hear on calm summer evenings.

It was a decision by the Town Council in partnership with CN Railroad to construct a raised median on the north and south approaches to the tracks, located midway between 45th and Main Street, to stop cars from going around the gate and eliminating the need for train whistles.



... TOWN TICKER ...

Craft brews will be on tap at this year's fall festival. By a 3-2 vote, the **HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL** approved alcohol for this year's event....The new **INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE** renovation of the former Southside Bantam grocery netted the business nearly \$20,000 in facade renovation grant dollars from the town. ... A flurry of bike traffic along Jewett has prompted the **REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION** to find money to purchase a bike rack for the area in front of Sip, Primitive Peddler and Miles Books. ... A staple in town for more than 50 years, **HILBRICH LAW FIRM** has expanded with offices in Crown Point and Portage.

THREE HIGHLAND RESIDENTS TO CARRY BICENTENNIAL TORCH

Mary Goolik was beyond excited when she was selected to represent her hometown during the 2016 Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay.

Goolik, a nursing professor at Indiana University Northwest, is not alone. Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin and Joseph Kwasny, former police chief, USMC veteran and Purple Heart recipient, were also chosen to carry the torch for Indiana.

Options to get from Point A to Point B can be as varied as the 2,000 individuals who will be traversing the state in the name of history. Biking, running and walking are high on the list, but

no one should rule out wheelchairs, unicycles or even tractors and combines.

With three marathons under her belt, Goolik is considering a walk/run combo for her stint as part of the team while Griffin is opting for a brisk walk with seven-year-old daughter, Abigail.

"I am humbled to be nominated and grateful the committee considered me worthy of the honor," Griffin said. "It's exciting to be living in Indiana during the bicentennial. It's a time when we are asked to look back to see how far we've come and forward to see the next steps in our journey." 🐦



ABOUT THE RELAY

Patterned after the Olympic Torch Relay, Indiana's version will pass through all 92 of the state's counties, covering 2,300 miles over a five week period. The torch will pass through Lake County on Oct. 9 and 11.

INFO: Visit www.in.gov/ibc/torchrelay for a complete list of torch bearers as well as a map and schedule of the route.

ADDRESS VISIBILITY

When it comes to emergencies, precious minutes can be squandered if first responders can't find your home.

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky and Fire Chief Bill Timmer urge residents to ensure their addresses are easily visible from the street. If you live on a corner, consider purchasing reflective numbers on two sides of your house.

When you place the numbers where they will be most visible, take a walk out to the street to see if a police officer, firefighter or paramedic would be able to see them. Take another look at the address plate after dark to see if it's still visible. A few simple steps can help save a life.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about the latest trends in crime at this month's crime watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **JULY 13**

WHERE: HPD community room

RESERVATIONS: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - president
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

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dvassar@highland.in.gov
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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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GRANT WILL BRING ART WALK TO LIFE

Thanks to hundreds of supporters, the town captured first place in the Legacy Foundation's Spring Into Summer Community Contest!

In exchange for 514 online ballots, the town will receive a \$500 grant to defray the cost of a mural on Jewett just east of Miles Books.

During the last two hours of voting – which concluded at noon June 30 – Highland's mural was neck-and-neck with Hobart's community vegetable garden, which garnered 512 votes.

"This was truly a community effort," said Main Street President Dawn Diamantopoulos, who along with HMS volunteer Julie Larson, drummed up support for the project.

"It's exciting to think that as a result of us pulling together, we'll have a beautiful new mural to enjoy by the end of September," she said.

The mural is the first in a series of public artworks and sculptures planned for downtown. Highland's Sculpture and Art Walk initiative is the result of a partnership between HMS, the Redevelopment Commission and Highland Community Foundation.

"Public artwork attracts spectators and shoppers to the downtown, which is integral to the mission of all three groups," Diamantopoulos said. "It adds immeasurably to the character of the downtown and the quality of life we enjoy in Highland." 🐦

TOWN THEATRE SPOTLIGHT



IT'S A SCOUT'S HONOR: In two short months, interest in the fledgling Exploring Post has gone from zero to 35 – attendees that is! The Highland scouts are assisting with the Town Theatre renovation. Members and leaders are still needed to round out the group. The first project is a short film documenting the oral history of the theatre. The next meeting is 6 p.m. July 11 at Lincoln Center. For more information about the group, contact Andy Pierce at (630) 796-4221. [Andy Pierce photo]

HIGHLAND POLICE BEEF UP FESTIVAL SECURITY

If it seemed as if there more police officers than usual at this year's Fourth of July Festival, your eyes weren't playing tricks.

The Town Council and Police Chief Pete Hojnicky met following a recent spate of violence in the region and decided to bump up staffing levels to prevent anything similar from happening in Highland.

"There are thousands of people who descend on Main Square Park during the festival to have a good time," Hojnicky said.

"We want to do everything in our power to make sure that happens. That means planning for the unexpected."

On occasion, police staffing actually doubled within the park while an increased number of marked cars patrolled the neighborhoods proximate to Main Square.

"Our focus is all about prevention," he said. "This is about taking the opportunity away from anyone who might think about causing trouble while they are visiting Highland." 🐦

MUSIC & THE MARKET

Come to the outdoor market for juicy tomatoes, luscious Japanese eggplant and all the green beans, snap peas and beets your arms can carry: Stay for the best local musical talent around.

Volunteer coordinator Michelle Velez has worked her magic again this year, convincing 14 local talents to join her in donating a Saturday morning to perform for the throngs who make the outdoor market a weekend staple.

The musical line-up this year began while seeds were still being planted and will continue through the fall harvest.

See you at the market!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy live music every Saturday at Highland's outdoor market, featuring local produce and artisanal goods.

MARKET: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MUSIC: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park

CONCERT SCHEDULE

JULY 9: LACEY

JULY 16: Matt Alexander

JULY 23: David Blixt

JULY 30: Dennis, Andrew & Michelle

AUG 6: Keenan Baxter

AUG 13: Robbing Selsdon

AUG 20: Terri Feddersen

AUG 27: Michelle Josephine Velez

SEPT 3: JD Kostyk

SEPT 10: Dennis, Andrew & Michelle

SEPT 17: Gerry Hundt

SEPT 24: Eric Brumley

OCT 1: Eddie Covarrubias

OCT 8: David Blixt Duo

OCT 15: Ronn Barany

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call Redevelopment Director
Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598
or cpetro@highland.in.gov.

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Sign up to tee-off at the 2016 golf outing sponsored by the Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce.

WHEN: 11 a.m. registration & lunch, noon shotgun start, Friday **JULY 22**

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$100 per person includes lunch, golf, cart, dinner, drink tickets, golf balls. \$25 cash prize on every hole.

RESERVATIONS: Call (219) 923-3666.

KIWANIS CHICKEN DINNER

Join the Highland Kiwanis for chicken dinner at Main Square Park. Eat at the park or carry out. Tickets are \$10 and include half a roasted chicken, Nelson's tasty Pit-Tatoes and slaw.

WHEN: 5 to 6:30 p.m. **JULY 31**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: Purchase by **JULY 22** at First Midwest Bank, Edward Jones or Lincoln Community Center.

INFO: Call (219) 923-2360.

CHICAGO CUBS OUTING

Let Highland Parks and Recreation take care of the transportation and seating. Limited tickets are available for this all-ages ballpark outing. Fans under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

JULY 31: Game time TBD

Cubs vs. Seattle Mariners - Sec. 209

WHERE: Wrigley Field, Chicago

TICKETS: Purchase tickets for \$79 in advance at the Lincoln Center.

QUESTIONS: Call (219) 838-0114.

ROTARY CORN ROAST

Join us for all the corn you can eat plus two hot dogs or one sausage, sauerkraut, chips, drink and dessert. Proceeds benefit Highland scholarships and park, fire and police departments.

WHEN: 4 to 7:30 p.m. **AUGUST 5**

WHERE: Main Square Park

FEE: \$6 in advance or \$8 at the park.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666.

ALL-CLASS REUNION

The Highland High School All-Class reunion features food, music and fun. Local businesses, who donate food, cash and raffle items, help organizers keep the ticket price at \$10 – and provide an ample surplus, which is donated each year to Highland High.

WHEN: 7 p.m. to midnight **AUGUST 6**

WHERE: American Legion Hall

INFO: Call Kim at (832) 461-5063.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Grab a comfy lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to Main Square for Highland Park's summer concert series.

JULY 7: Dan Mateja & the IPA Tribute Band
- *legendary polka music*

JULY 14: SODA - *modern*

JULY 21: Fast Eddie & The Corvettes - *50s-70s*

WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Lincoln Center Fieldhouse. Please bring your own chair.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join Highland Parks & Recreation for an evening in the park to watch "Inside Out" on the big screen. The concession stand will sell popcorn and fountain drinks. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, the movie will be shown indoors at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

WHEN: Dusk (around 8:30 p.m.) Friday, **JULY 15**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

KICKAROO KARATE KIDS

A fun, non-contact program inspires self-esteem, builds character and prepares young children — ages 3-5 — to face life's challenges. There are no elements of sparring or practicing against one another. Dress comfortably.

WHEN: 3:15-3:50 p.m. or 4-4:35 p.m. Mondays,

JULY 25 - AUGUST 29

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$47 residents/\$52 nonresidents

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

RED HOT TENNIS CAMP

Learn proper techniques from our tennis pros Steve and Ofelia. Camp is open to boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. Dress comfortably and bring your own tennis racquet and water.

WHEN: 8 to 9:30 a.m. or 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Monday - Thursday, **JULY 11 - 29**

WHERE: Highland High School tennis courts

FEE: \$140/\$150 per 3 week session; \$95/\$105 per 2 week session; \$50/\$55 for 1 week.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

HATHA YOGA

Relieve tension and restore good health with relaxing exercises, breathing techniques and meditation. Bring towel, blanket or yoga mat.

WHEN: Wednesdays, **JULY 27 - AUGUST 31**

BEGINNERS: 6 to 6:55 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE: 7 to 7:55 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$30/\$33 or drop-in \$9/\$10

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

Highland Parks & Recreation

KIDS FISHING CONTEST

Junior anglers will bait their hooks and cast their lines from 8 to 10 a.m. August 13 from a swanky new fishing porch/pier during this year's contest at Meadow's Pond. Park Superintendent Alex Brown said the vision for an erosion-control project at the east end of the pond expanded into a fishing pier with rails that is ADA accessible. "The project should be complete by the middle of July," Brown said. "The work has stabilized the pond and created a new fishing pier that is accessible to those with disabilities. It's going to be a great addition to Meadows Park."

AUGUST 4 REGISTRATION DEADLINE



Event fee

\$7 residents

\$10 nonresidents

Bring your own pole,
hooks, lures and bobbers.

Bait is provided.

Information

Please call Highland Parks &
Recreation at (219) 838-0114
or visit highlandparks.org.

CHICAGO BULLS SUMMER CAMP

Let the Chicago Bulls teach you how to play like a champion! Improve every aspect of your game including ball handling, shooting, passing, rebounding, footwork, individual moves and team concepts. Campers — ages 6 to 12 — receive a Chicago Bulls duffel bag, Bulls indoor/outdoor basketball, T-shirt, evaluation report and graduation certificate.

WHEN: 1 to 4 p.m. **AUGUST 1-5**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse

FEE: \$215 per player

REGISTER: Register online at www.bullssoxacademy.com

or call (630) 324-8221.

FOOTLOOSE THE MUSICAL™

The Highland Parks & Recreation Department's Performing Arts Group presents "Footloose the Musical" — a heartfelt story of small farm-town boy's struggle to fit in to his new school and break the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing. Bring a comfy lawn chair or blanket and sit back and enjoy the show. The concession stand will be open and programs are \$2. All proceeds offset the cost of production.

WHEN: 8 p.m. **JULY 28-30 and AUG. 4-6**

WHERE: Main Square Gazebo

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.